

Mexico - U.S. Cross-Border Mutual Aid Agreements, Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Procedures

This table serves as a *draft inventory* of known agreements, laws, regulations, policies, and procedures that address cross-border mutual aid between Mexico and the U.S. during an emergency.

Name	Established	Scope	Type	Hazard Type	Function(s)	Web Link	Lead Organizations	Organization Contact
<i>U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)</i>	1952	Federal	Law	n/a	U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) currently paroles emergency workers into the U.S. on a case-by-case basis pursuant to the authority granted by § 212(d)(5) of the INA. CBP also possesses the legal authority to waive passport and visa requirements and admit aliens not in possession of the appropriate entry documents under § 212(d)(4)(a) of the INA. Provides CBP the authority to parole aliens into the country on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.	http://www.uscis.gov/proput/P0PubVAP.jsp?dockey=c9fe5f852dc066c1e16a4cb816838a4	U.S. CBP	
<i>U.S. Foreign Assistance Act (FAA)</i> , as amended, U.S. Pub. L. 87-195	4-Sep-61	Federal	Law	n/a	Section 607 of the FAA permits U.S. Government agencies to furnish services and commodities on an advance-of-funds or reimbursement basis to friendly countries, international organizations, and voluntary nonprofit relief agencies registered with and approved by the U.S. Agency for International Development.	http://www.usaid.gov/policy/leads/faa.pdf	U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)	

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Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act , Public Law 93-288, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207, and Related Authorities	23-Nov-88	Federal	Law	All-hazards	The Stafford Act defines the following duties for FEMA in regards to cooperation with Canada and Mexico: "The Director shall give all practicable assistance to States in arranging, through the Department of State, mutual emergency preparedness aid between the States and neighboring countries." (Sec. 612. Mutual Aid Pacts Between States and Neighboring Countries (42 U.S.C. 5196a) "With the approval of the President, the Director may delegate to other departments and agencies of the Federal Government appropriate emergency preparedness responsibilities and review and coordinate the emergency preparedness activities of the departments and agencies with each other and with the activities of the States and neighboring countries." (Sec. 611. Detailed Functions of or Administration (42 U.S.C. 5196) Also, with respect to offers of foreign assistance made to the U.S., the Administrator of FEMA may "accept gifts of supplies, equipment, and facilities and may use or distribute Article 15 indicates "The Parties shall facilitate the entry of equipment and personnel related to this Agreement, subject to the laws and regulations of the receiving country." Agreement establishes Joint Response teams for hazardous material response.	http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/stafford_act.pdf	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS, FEMA)	FEMA National Response and Coordination Center (NRCC) ask for International Affairs desk
La Paz Agreement	14-Aug-83	Federal	Agreement	Hazmat, Environmental Protection		http://www.epa.gov/border2012/docs/LaPazAgreement.pdf	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), in partnership with Protección Civil from the Secretariat of Government (SEGOB)	Sally Spener, (915) 832-4175
Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande: Treaty between the United States of America and Mexico	3-Feb-44	Federal	Agreement	Dam breaches	Authorizes the two countries to construct, operate, and maintain dams on the main channel of the Rio Grande through the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC).	http://www.ibwc.state.gov/Files/1944Treaty.pdf	International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC),	

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<i>Agreement between the Government of the United Mexican States and the United States of America on Cooperation in Case of Natural Disasters</i>	15-Jan-80	Federal	Agreement	Natural disasters	Article II, item A. provides for the "Exchange of information and personnel as mutually agreed." Post-disaster assistance is limited to common border areas.	n/a	U.S. - FEMA, U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID-OFDA), U.S. Department of State (DOS) Mexico - Secretariat of Government, Secretariat of Foreign Relations, Secretariat of National Defense, et. al.	
<i>Cross Border Contingency Plans U.S./Mexico Sister Cities</i>	Various	Local	Plans	Hazmat	Developed through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Border 2012 Program. Hazmat response plans for 14 Sister Cities along the border.	n/a	Sister Cities, see http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/framework/people.html#metroareas for list	
<i>Proposed Policy and Procedures Statement for Binational Action in Case of An Emergency in the Tijuana-San Diego Area</i>	10-Mar-88	Regional	Policies and Procedures	All-hazards, particularly seismic	Recommends basic immediate response policies and procedures for bilateral cooperation (including mutual aid) in case of an emergency (defined as a natural disaster), particularly a seismic movement in the Tijuana-San Diego area of "such magnitude as to give rise to a request from either country for assistance."	n/a	U.S. - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Mexico Protección Civil	
<i>Wildfire Protection Agreement between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior of the United States of America and the Secretariat of Environment Natural Resources, and Fisheries of the United Mexican States for the Common Border</i>	4-Jun-99	Federal	Agreement	Forest Fire Fighting	Enables wildfire protection resources originating in the territory of one country to cross the U.S.-Mexico border in order to suppress wildfires on the other side of the border within the zone of mutual assistance in appropriate circumstances. The zone of mutual assistance is defined as the area of up to 16 kilometers (10 miles) on each side of the U.S.-Mexico border. Personnel, supplies, equipment, aircraft, vehicles, vessels, radios and specialized machinery or other resources may be requested by either country.	http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/mo_bguide/Chapter40.pdf	The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior (USDA/DOI) and Mexico's Secretariat of Environment, Natural Resources, and Fisheries	

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U.S.-Mexico Joint Contingency Plan: Preparedness for and Response to Environmental Emergencies in the Inland Border Area	Jan-06	Federal	Plan	Hazmat	Provides a bi-national coordination mechanism to assure appropriate and effective cooperative planning, preparedness, and response measures between the U.S. and Mexico for environmental emergencies affecting the inland border area and to develop notification systems. Applies only to 100 kilometers on either side of the inland international boundary. Joint Response Teams (JRTs) responding to incidents are binational.	http://www.epa.gov/oem/docs/chem/final_us_draft_us_mexico_icp_1anuary20_2006.pdf	U.S. EPA and Mexico's EMARNAT, in partnership with Protección Civil from SEGOB	